

Restoring Internet Freedom

This is a total misnomer, there is currently internet freedom because the access providers have to treat all data the same. The internet is not an information service as the Chairman asserts it is the means to access the information services. What has happened in this country is the access providers have been swallowed up by media companies and they now not only provide the access to the internet they provide the content. There are a large number of companies and sites that are not controlled by these media giants and if this is allowed they will disappear.

The issue of Net Neutrality is also an issue of censorship by these providers. If they are allowed to control what site have access to the user they are in fact becoming censors.

The provision of content is not the same as provision of access, in this country there are almost no independent internet service providers left. If the access portion of these media giants were to be separated from the content we would be in a much better place.

The guarantee of the access provider giving all sites access equally is paramount to our countries freedom of speech. If the regulations are removed we are moving in the direction of a situation like in China where everything is controlled, but in our case not by the government but by a company that is out of control given permission by the government. The matter is further complicated in that each company would be giving different things to people.

Net neutrality is not about innovation or infrastructure it is about free thought and expression and also about free trade for every business to have a chance not just those that control the access.